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State Department review completed

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23 April 1957

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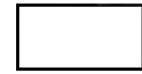
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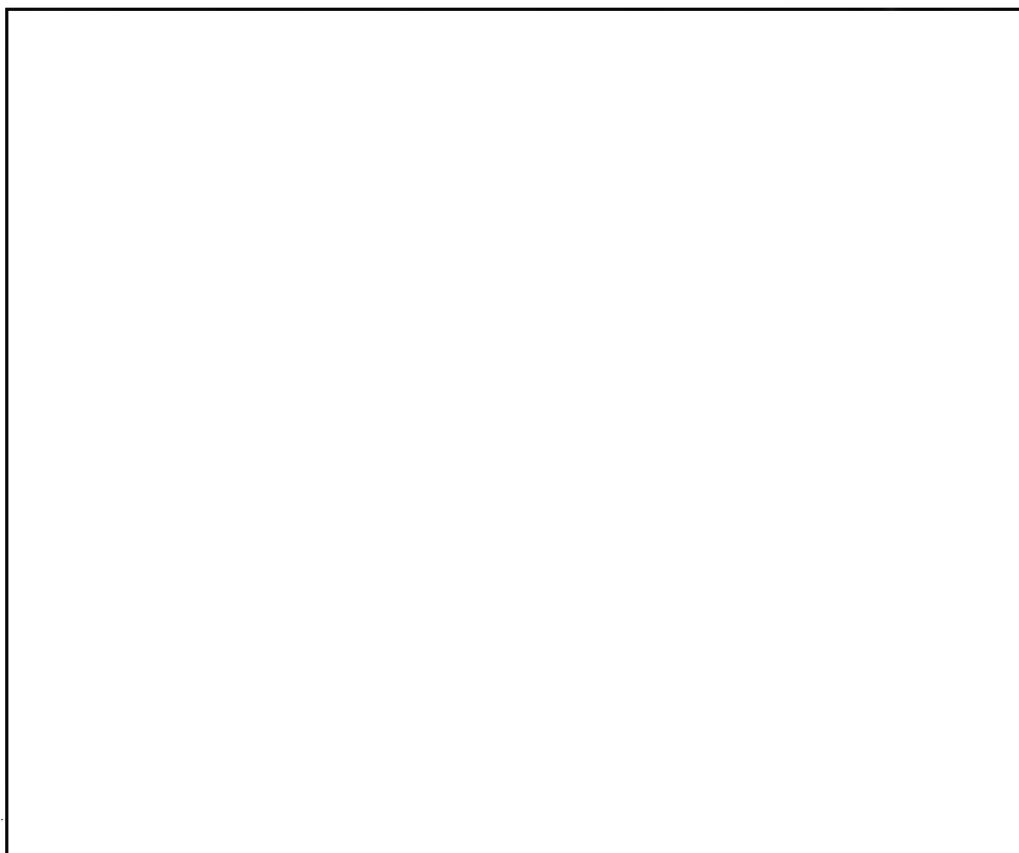
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2. FRANCE WANTS NATO "COMMON STOCKPILE" OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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French Foreign Ministry officials have raised with American representatives in Paris the possibility of a NATO "common stockpile" of nuclear weapons under

SACEUR control for NATO use only. Paris believes such a stockpile would circumvent pressures in both France and West Germany for national nuclear weapons production programs. Foreign Ministry spokesmen described the eventuality of a German program as "the gravest conceivable danger to the free world because it would open the way for the Germans to deal directly with the Soviets!"

Comment

Jules Moch, French delegate to the UN Disarmament Subcommittee, told the American delegate on 14 April that Paris would forego development of its own nuclear weapons capability if a limited disarmament agreement could assure similar abstention by Germany and restrictions on German rearmament. Although the Western European Union prohibits West German production of unconventional weapons, the question of actual possession of such weapons by German troops has never been explicitly resolved, largely because of French qualms.

Chancellor Adenauer's recent demands for tactical nuclear weapons and the British decision to rely primarily on nuclear defensive power have intensified French fears of being "alone on the Continent" with a rearmed Germany.

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